

Message Text

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ORIGIN IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 049666

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PINS, SF, AO

SUBJECT: SOUTH AFRICAN MILITARY PRISONERS IN ANGOLA

REF: USUN 647

1. DEPARTMENT BELIEVES THAT EKSTEEN'S INITIATIVE IN
RAISING ISSUE OF SOUTH AFRICAN MILITARY PRISONERS IN
ANGOLA PROVIDES POTENTIALLY USEFUL OPENING WHICH SHOULD
BE FURTHER DISCUSSED IN CONTACT GROUP. ANY PROGRESS
ON THIS ISSUE COULD SERVE TO CREATE BETTER ATMOSPHERE
FOR NAMIBIAN NEGOTIATIONS.

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2. PRIOR TO ANY ACTION BY CONTACT GROUP MEMBERS,
EITHER COLLECTIVELY OR INDIVIDUALLY, YOU SHOULD POSE
FOLLOWING QUESTIONS TO SOUTH AFRICANS:

A) HAVE SOUTH AFRICANS HAD ANY PREVIOUS CONTACT ON
THIS ISSUE, EITHER OFFICIAL OR UNOFFICIAL, WITH
ANGOLAN AUTHORITIES?

B) ARE THE SOUTH AFRICANS CURRENTLY HOLDING ANY ANGOLAN OR CUBAN PRISONERS WHOSE STATUS THE ANGOLANS MIGHT RAISE? IF ANSWER IS "YES", WOULD SOUTH AFRICANS BE PREPARED TO EXCHANGE THESE PRISONERS FOR ITS SERVICEMEN HELD IN ANGOLA?

C) IF THE ANGOLANS PROVED WILLING TO CONSIDER SOME SORT OF EXCHANGE, WOULD SOUTH AFRICA BE PREPARED TO RELEASE ANY OF THE SWAPO MEMBERS CURRENTLY IN DETENTION?

D) HAS SOUTH AFRICA RAISED THE QUESTION OF ITS MILITARY PERSONNEL HELD IN ANGOLA WITH THE ICRC? WOULD THE SOUTH AFRICANS WELCOME AN ICRC INVOLVEMENT IN THIS CASE IF THE ANGOLANS WERE AGREEABLE? WOULD THE SOUTH AFRICANS BE PREPARED TO GIVE ICRC ACCESS TO ANY ANGOLAN/CUBAN PRISONERS IT MIGHT HOLD IN EXCHANGE FOR ANGOLA'S AGREEMENT TO ALLOW ICRC ACCESS TO IMPRISONED SOUTH AFRICAN SERVICEMEN?

VANCE

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Message Attributes

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